THRIFT TALK PROBLEM OF MIDDLE CLASS

IN THIS COUNTRY THE GREAT MIDDLE CLASS IS BETWEEN TWO MILL STONES—COST OF LIVING AND—APPEARANCES.

"This rapid change in extreme fashions has but one object; namely, to force everybody who can, to buy anew as often as possible. It has another effect; namely, to induce the great middle class to spend all it can earn."—Dean Eugene Davenport.

Before the French Revolution, France was divided into three classes or "estates"—the Nobility, the Clergy and the Common People.

We cannot close our eyes to the fact that in America today, as far as money matters are concerned, society is again divided into three classes—the Rich, the Poor, and the Great Middle Class, to which the great bulk of our citizens belong.

At the present time this large part of our population is being ground, so to speak, between the upper millstone of necessity or keeping up appearances and the nether one of the high cost of everything.

Our grandmothers wore calico dresses costing not more than seventy-five cents. It would now take the price of ten to twenty such dresses to buy a hat for one of our daughters in the high school. What is more significant ,our grand mothers earned the dresses themselves by working perhaps a whole week at house work. Do our young girls earn their hats?

Of course times are different and we don't expect our young daughters to earn their clothing. But the fact remains that the present generation must pay exorbitantly for its clothing. There seems to be something like a conspiracy between the designers and the manufacturers of women's hats and dresses to prevent the development of a standardization of styles.

Every year brings a radical change in cut ,color and texture, compelling the purchase of complete new outfits unless a woman wants to be out of style, which is nothing short of a calamity from the feminine point of view, or the masculine either, for that matter.

This is one thing which for the time is beyond our control, but there are many others involving our expenditure of money which we can regulate, and doing so is the only hope of economic salvation for us of the Great Middle Class, for by so doing we are enabled to save some of our resources and build up a reserve fund the earnings of which will eke out our own.

TO PREVENT OUTBREAK OF THE STABLE FLY

Washington, Aug. 6.—The stockmen of north Texas, Oklahoma, and the grain belt to the north are now confronted with conditions which may bring about a serious outbreak of the stable fly similar to that experienced in north Texas and other parts of the grain belt in 1912. The so-called stable fly is the insect which closely resembles the horse fly, but is capable of causing much annoyance to live stock by its painful bite, which is inflicted with a sharp proboscis or beak. It is sometimes spoken of as the "biting house fly," "wild fly," or "straw fly." When it is not biting the point of this beak may be seen projecting slightly in front of the head. The body of the insect is also slightly more robust than that of the house fly, and the abdomen rather more distinctly marked with dark patches.

The unusually large grain crop of this year will give rise to a very large number of straw stacks. A considerable number of flies are now present and with a period of rainy weather we may expect a horde of them three weeks later. It has been shown by investigations conducted by the bureau of entomology that these flies breed extensively in fermenting straw. Oat straw and rice straw are preferred by the fly for its breeding, although in the absence of these the straw of wheat, rye or barley, if in the proper state of fermentation, will produce large number of them.

Manure acts as a breeding medium throughout the year; this is especially true of horse manure. The favorableness of this substance for breeding is increased when straw used as bedding is intermixed. Although manure produces a sufficient number of stable flies to prove very annoying to stock it appears that very severe and widespread outbreaks are largely attributable to the breeding of the pest in straw stacks. The destruction of the stable fly in the first instance may be brought about by the scattering of the manure upon fields, thus causing the drying out of breeding material and the consequent destruction of the larvae. Where it is not practicable to scatter the manure on fields the same results may be accomplished by treating it with borax at the rate of .62 pounds to 8 bushels of manure. The powdered borax should be scattered over the entire surface of the manure pile. As fresh manure is added it should be treated with borax at intervals of five days to insure the destruction of the house fly as well as the stable fly. Borax has an injurious effect on crops when used in excessive amounts—it is therefore necessary where the manure is to be applied to soil for cropping that quantities not greatly in excess of the above amount be used on the manure.

In the grain growing section the care of the straw after threshing is by far the most important step in the control of this pest. It has been determined that fermenting oat straw is far more favorable as a breeding medium for the stable fly than is wheat straw or other vegetable matter. Where rice is grown hordes of flies are often bred out in the fermenting straw and chaff from this crop. Oat straw is also much more highly prized for feeding live stock than is wheat straw. The shortage of food stuffs over much of the grain belt for the last few years has caused the farmers to depend largely upon straw to supplement other food in carrying their stock through the winter. The value attached to oat straw for feed and the fact that this material furnished the most favorable place for the breeding of the stable fly emphasizes the need of taking better care of it.

It is advised that as far as possible all oat straw be baled and then protected from the weather. In case portions of stacks become wet by rains they should be scattered over the fields or burned as soon as possible. When it is found impracticable to handle straw in this way the wet portions of the stacks may be treated with borax as described above. Where it is important that straw be kept for winter feeding, and baling is impracticable, the stacks may be improved to some extent by piling up the straw and leaving the sides of the stack practically vertical. It is in the scattered portions of the straw stacks around the base where the fly breeds in greatest numbers, and by disposing of this portion of the stack and leaving the remainder well rounded up, the chances for fly breeding are much lessened.

To Protect Live Stock from Flies.

The problem of protecting live stock—especially milk cows and work animals—are of only temporary value, as with practically all of them the flies begin biting them again within a very few hours after application. This necessitates considerable expense for the ingredients and the application of the material, and with many substances some ill effects are produced on the host by their continued application. A mixture of fish oil (1 gallon), oil of tar (2 ounces) oil of pennyroyal (2 ounces), and kerosene (½ pint) applied lightly to the parts most attacked by the flies will tend to keep them off.

Work animals may be largely protected by placing blankets over their backs and trousers on their legs. Dairy stock and horses when in barns may be protected by having the barns screened and brushing the flies off with burlap as the animals are driven in. The use of hodge fly traps in a few of the windows will also aid in the destruction of the flies which endeavor to escape from or enter the barn. This fly trap is of simple construction. When large numbers of flies are within a barn the catching of the flies may be facilitated by darkening the windows which are not fitted with traps. The trap is described fully with illustrations in the Department's Farmers' Bulletin No. 540, entitled "The Stable Fly," which will be furnished free to those desiring more complete information regarding the pest.

SOME SHORT STORIES.

A school teacher was reading a story to a class of very young folks, and paused at the words "lay brother" to explain their meaning.

"Does any one know what 'lay brother' means?" she asked.

For a moment a row of perplexed little faces looked up at her. Then one face brightened up suddenly and a small voice piped:

"Yes, ma'am—it's a rooster!"—Youth's Companion.

In a little town in Maine the Sunday school class was called to order. The subject of the lesson was on "The Power of the Tongue." Mrs. Freeman, the sweet-faced teacher, wished to bring out some of the points regarding the evils of slander.

"Why," said she, "should we be careful and not slander our neighbors?"

"Because," replied the young woman addressed, "if we talk about our neighbors, they'll go and talk about us."—Exchange.

The Rev. Holman Black was congratulated in Denver by a reporter, after an eloquent sermon on his masterly pulpit oratory.

"What is your secret, sir?" the reporter asked.

"Well," was Dr. Blacks' smiling answer, "a preacher should always remember that while there are sermons in stones, the more precious a stone is, the more carefully it must be cut and polished."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

He was full of zeal for the temperance cause, and was holding a series of lectures in a workman's hall, says Tit-Bits. But the audience was very unkind, and kept interrupting. So much so that at last he hired an ex-prize fighter to keep order. That night the orator contrasted the contents of home life with the squalor of drunkenness.

"What do we want to ease our burdens, to gladden our hearts, to bring smiles to our faces and joyous songs to our lips?"

He paused for effect, and in the silence could be heard the voice of teh keeper of the peace:

"Mind," he said, "the first bloke that says 'beer,' out he goes with a bang."

Thaddeus Stevens, slavery's most fiery enemy, though at times he could dominate his party, could not always control his tongue.

While in congress he had, as cook, an old southern negro "mammy" who, alone of all the household, stood not in awe of the great statesman. Like all her race, she was devoutly religious and, though she worshipped her employer for his zealous efforts on behalf of her people, she never failed to take him to task for his intemperate language.

One day she accidentally let fall a tray full of dishes. Stevens, hearing the crash of the chinaware, lost his temper and his tongue.

"What's all that you're breaking in there?" he asked angrily, adding many additional words that shocked the aged "mammy." Coming to the door, she looked the angry man squarely in the eyes, and shot at him:

"Whatever 'tis I'se a-breakin', it ain't the fo'th commandment."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Holding up a globe before a bright little boy in school, the teacher asked what country is opposite us on the globe, says the Chicago Journal.

"I don't know, ma'am," was the reply.

"Well, now," pursued the teacher, "if I were to bore a hole through the earth and you were to go in at this end, where would you come out?"

"Out of the hole," replied the pupil, with an air of triumph.

Apropos of a new Mexican difficulty, Senator Myers said to a Washington correspondent:

"We must try to take these things calmly and philosophically. We must try to emulate the rich banker.

"You poor fellow," a broker said to the banker, "I understand that the young Vicomte Vaut-Rien has actually run off with your wife and a large part of your fortune.'

"'Yes, yes,' said the banker calmly, 'but Vaut-Rien seems to be an honest fellow and doubtless will pay back all. He has already returned my wife.'"

Mrs. Rose Pastor Phelps Stokes said at a recent sociological convention in New York.

"The economies that some of the rich would force upon the poor. Why, they have the poor as impossibly economical as the miner's wife in Trinidad.

"This woman said to a missionary:

"'Talk about economy! Well sir, every night when my Bill comes home I shove him in the bathtub, clothes and all, and after he gets out I sieve the water and make briquettes of it for the fire.'"

How to Cure a Sprain.

A sprain may be cured in about one-third the time required by the usual treatment by applying Chamberlain's Liniment and observing the directions with each bottle. For sale by all dealers.

Infection and Insect Bites Dangerous.

Mosquitoes, flies and other insects, which breed quickly in garbage pails, ponds of stagnant water, barns, musty places, etc., are carriers of disease. Every time they bite you, they inject poison into your system from which some dread disease may result. Get a bottle of Sloan's Liniment. It is antiseptic, and a few drops will neutralize the infection caused by insect bites or rusty nails. Sloan's Liniment disinfects.